## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

PRATESI, S. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 3816-62; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be assigned

Group:

US National Phase of PCT/EP02/14893

Filed: June 28, 2004

Examiner:

For: REDUCED-WEAR SEALING ELEMENT

June 28, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: